

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 292310Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6906

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 2782

FROM ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, PORG, GT, CR, HO, ES, NU

SUBJECT: CAN PLANS TO COMPLETE DRAFT TREATY BY SEPTEMBER

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO SIECA AND HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE (CAN) SOURCES, THE CAN WILL ACCELERATE ITS WORK PROGRAM, AND MEET FOR TWO WEEKS EACH MONTH FROM JUNE TO AUGUST, IN ORDER TO COMPLETE A DRAFT TREATY FOR SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENTS BY SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF CA ECONOMIC MINISTERS AS THE ECLA COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION CURRENTLY IN SESSION IN TEGUCIGALPA, THE MEMBERS OF THE CAN PLAN TO HOLD TWO WEEK-LONG SESSIONS PER MONTH, JUNE THROUGH AUGUST. THESE SESSIONS ARE TO CONSIST OF A N ARTICLE BY ARTILCE REVIEW AND REDRAFTING OF THE PROPOSED TREATY TO CREATE A CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY (CAESC).

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3. THE ECLA COMMITTEE IS FOCUSING ON SHORT-TERM COOPERATIVE

ACTION PROGRAMS FOR CENTRAL AMERICA, PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAESC. THESE INCLUDE, AMONG MANY OTHERS, SUCH ITEMS AS:

- A) A SINGLE CA NEGOTIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL FORA, SUCH AS GATT AND MTN.
- B) A CA "TRADING COMPANY".
- C) A CA "EXTERNAL FINANCING COMMITTEE" TO OVERSEE FOREIGN INVESTMENT.
- D) JOINT PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURE INPUTS AND JOINT SALE OF PRODUCTS.
- E) PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL INTEGRATION ENTERPRISES.
- F) MASTER PLAN FOR CA ENERGY SUPPLY.
- G) DISASTER PREVENTION AND RELIEF.

NEVERTHELESS, THE CAN MEMBERS ARE ALSO ATTENDING THE ECLA SESSION, AND THEY HOPE TO WORK OUT WITH THE MINECONS A TOTAL STRATEGY LEADING TO THE EVENTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAESC.

4. THIS STRATEGY, WE UNDERSTAND, WILL CONSIST, IN GENERAL TERMS, OF THE FOLLOWING:

- A) REGIONAL MEETING OF CA JURISTS, TO ANALYZE AND RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS TO LEGAL PROBLEMS INHERENT IN CURRENT (SIECA) DRAFT TREATY, INCLUDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE PROPOSED CA TRIBUNAL.
- B) RAPID CONCLUSION OF THE CAN'S DRAFT TREATY, THE CAN DRAFT TO BE PRESENTED TO THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER, 1975. IN CASES WHERE THE CAN CANNOT REACH AGREEMENT, ALTERNATIVE FORMULAS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUADRIPARTITE FOR DECISION.
- C) DISSOLVING AND DISBANDING THE CAN.
- D) ADOPTION AND BEGINNING IMPLEMENTATION OF WHATEVER REGIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS ARE FOUND FEASIBLE BY THE ECLA COMMITTEE; PROGRESSIVE ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL PROJECTS.
- E) MEETING OF THE QUADRIPARTITE BY JANUARY, 1976, TO FURTHER NEGOTIATE OR ADOPT AND SIGN IF POSSIBLE, THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE CA COMMUNITY.
- F) SUBMISSION OF THE TREATY FOR RATIFICATION BY LEGISLATURES, DURING 1976, FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE APPROVAL IN EACH COUNTRY.

5. COMMENT

THE CAN WAS KICKED OFF IN DECEMBER 1972 BY THE FIRST TRIPARTITE
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MEETING, AND WAS CHARGED WITH MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO RESTRUCTURE AND PERFECT THE CA COMMON MARKET. THEIR EFFORT HAS BEEN NOISED ABOUT FOR AROUND TWO YEARS, AND IT IS TIME NOW FOR CAN MEMBERS TO DO SOMETHING MORE SOLID OR GET OFF. EVEN IF THE PRODUCT OF THE CAN'S LABORS DOES NOT PROVE TO SUIT THE TASTE OF ALL PARTIES, THE TIME IS FAST APPROACHING WHEN THE WORST THING THE COMMISSIONERS COULD DO MIGHT BE TO CONTINUE TO SIT. MOST OF THEM ARE BUSY AND AMBITIOUS MEN, WHOSE IMAGE WOULD BE DAMAGED

BY PROLONGED DELAY. THIS, WE BELIEVE, IS A MAJOR REASON FOR THE PRESENT URGENCY ON THE PART OF THE CAN.

6. IT APPEARS THAT THE PROPOSED EIGHT-MAN NON-NATIONAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION IS DEAD, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST. IT IS OPPOSED BY NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA, AT LEAST, AND REPORTEDLY BY HONDURAS AS WELL. ONLY SIECA AND EL SALVADOR HAVE ACTIVELY AND OFFICIALLY SUPPORTED IT. ITS REPLACEMENT BY A FIVE-MAN COMMISSION IS A CLEAR SIGNAL THAT EVEN A VERY SHORT STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF POLITICAL UNITY IS NOT VIABLE AT PRESENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA. TO PARAPHRASE HARVEY WHEELER, THE LOCAL CARPENTERS ARE NOT YET READY TO BUILD THEIR TAJ MAHAL. THUS, THE FIVE CA'S (LIKE MOST OTHER NATIONAL UNITS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD) ARE NOT READY FOR THE RADICAL REFORMS IN THEIR INTERNATIONAL POLICY WHICH MANY INTEGRATIONISTS BELIEVE NECESSARY.

7. NEVERTHELESS, A NUMBER OF CENTRAL AMERICAN LEADERS ARE AWARE THAT THEIR PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED ON THE SAME SMALL SCALE ON WHICH THEY ARISE. THIS HAS LED TO AN INCREASING CONVICTION THAT INTEGRATION IS INEVITABLE, AND TO A BURGEONING PLETHORA OF "PRACTICAL" "PRAGMATIC" AND "SHORT-TERM" PROPOSALS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEFENSE AND COOPERATION. THE ECLA COMMITTEE AGENDA APPEARS AS A CENTRAL AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE NEED FOR NEW LEVELS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WHILE CIRCUMVENTING THE POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL IMPEDIMENTS THERETO. PARKER ACTING.

ALSO PASSED IN USAID/GUATEMALA
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